

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 190

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to commend the Dodd Family for honorably representing the State of Tennessee during their Bike Across America in service to the people of this great nation.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gary, Faith, Andrew, and Rebekah Dodd are Tennesseans who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2001, the Dodd Family set out from Seattle, Washington, at the beginning of their journey to bicycle through the forty-eight contiguous states of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2002, the Dodds ended their journey in Portland, Maine, having successfully completed their mission to visit with Christians and churches in all forty-eight states, and to encourage Christians to express their faith in Jesus Christ as they accept the challenge of discipleship; and

WHEREAS, the family covered nearly 9,500 miles in a continuous, unbroken route during their trip; and

WHEREAS, during their most inspirational journey, the Dodds were featured on *Good Morning America*, *Radical Sabbaticals*, numerous radio talk shows and television news programs, and in printed articles; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly would like to specially recognize the Dodd children, Andrew Wayne and Rebekah Marie, who ably represented the youth of this great State by answering the call to serve their fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, in planning their journey across America, Andrew and Rebekah set an ambitious goal, and they pursued it with relentless determination; the magnitude of their goal drew local and national media attention that was reported both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Andrew and Rebekah proudly represented the State of Tennessee, and they willingly and often praised their community, their school, and Nashville area businesses for the support these groups offered to the Dodd Family; and

WHEREAS, the Dodds exemplified the "Volunteer" spirit for which Tennesseans are so well-known by helping stranded motorists, feeding the hungry, visiting orphans and the hospitalized, and speaking to youth groups, schools, and churches throughout their journey; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Andrew and Rebekah should be specially recognized for understanding, at such a young age, the value of investing their time and energy in service to other people; and

WHEREAS, Andrew and Rebekah gave up their sophomore year of high school in order to spend this time with their family, and in so doing, they encouraged others to value family, truly our most important relationship; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Andrew and Rebekah proudly extolled the freedoms and benefits of being American citizens in personal conversations and numerous media interviews throughout their journey; the family was in Billings, Montana, on September 11, 2001, the day of the tragic attacks on our country, and after listening to the comforting words of President

George W. Bush, and with faith in the federal and state governments, they decided to continue their bike ride across America; and

WHEREAS, Andrew and Rebekah learned many lessons as they remained steadfast in their commitment to bike across America: they rode over the highest paved road in America (the Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park--12,183 feet), made many summits, rode across several deserts, crossed numerous rivers, and completed their ride eight months later; and

WHEREAS, highly respected citizens of Nashville, the Dodds have distinguished themselves as public-spirited citizens of the highest order and as exceptional assets to their community; and

WHEREAS, the Dodd Family's remarkable journey was made possible by their reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense, their stalwart faith in Jesus Christ, and their uncommon ability to relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the Dodds are extremely giving people who have reached out with compassion to their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, because of their bike ride across America, an opportunity has been presented to Andrew and Rebekah Dodd to raise money to enable children with cancer to attend summer camps; during 2003, in conjunction with the Kampgrounds of America Care Camps Trust, Andrew and Rebekah will ride their bikes in the hopes of raising \$20,000 for these special children; and

WHEREAS, the Dodds are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the Dodd Family for their honorable and astute service to the people of this nation and their exemplary representation of the State of

Tennessee during their Bike Across America. We specially recognize Andrew and Rebekah Dodd for setting an example for the youth of this nation, and we salute the Dodd's unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.